

the local level often cut libraries first, that surveys in several cities and localities have established the fact that if the public is given the choice, would you pay more taxes for a particular service, libraries are right at the top in terms of individuals are willing to pay more taxes in order to keep their libraries open and keep their libraries operating at a quality level. That has been proven again and again. So in our reluctance to fund libraries, we are running counter to the perception of the public in terms of an institution where we get our money's worth.

Museums, of course, now serve so many different kinds of purposes. When we say "museum," we are not necessarily talking about an art museum. There are museums of all kinds. I have three grandchildren, and my oldest grandson is 5 years old. He has dinosaur books, but when he went to a library and saw an exhibit, he came back and wanted to be a paleontologist. That big word certainly had meaning for him.

I hope that in the future we would be more generous and would be willing to authorize higher sums for these institutions that have proven their worth over and over again.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The gentlewoman will suspend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(b) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in emergency recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1105

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When the recess was declared, the House was considering H.R. 13 and 43½ minutes of debate remained.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) has 22½ minutes remaining and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) has 21 minutes remaining.

Prior to the recess, the gentleman from Michigan had yielded two minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and the gentlewoman from New York had 2 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 13, the sole Federal agency devoted exclusively to museums and libraries which partners with schools to educate America's young.

Museums and libraries have traditionally served us as lifelong centers of learning creating centralized locations for the dissemination of information that provides equal access for Americans of all ages.

As the availability of information increases through the use of computer technologies, it is only logical that museums and libraries expand their services in order to fully maximize their mission as reference centers, as well as to fill the public's need to acquire the necessary skills to utilize such technology and reap the benefits of this expansion of cultural and historical knowledge.

The money in this bill will be used to bring projects and resources that would not otherwise be available in our communities to our local libraries and to this Nation's fine museums.

In my district, libraries provide paid mentors that help kids and families with homework in the library, especially they try to include parents whose first language is not English. In addition to the establishment of the centers, the grant has provided for the addition of several important learning resources to participating libraries' collections.

The authorization of the MLSA is an important step to helping students and other museums and library patrons find the resources and materials that they need to successfully come together and share information about history and culture.

Passing this legislation will ensure that libraries and museums across the country continue to provide accessible, safe, dynamic places of learning for all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his leadership on something that is so important to America, and that is, the Museum and Library Services Act.

As my colleague has pointed out, this bill authorizes \$245 million in Federal assistance for museums and libraries in the coming fiscal year and additional funds all the way through the end of this decade.

A civilized society, Mr. Speaker, must include cultural enrichment, and it is one of the responsibilities of our government to support that aspect of our civilization. We get what we pay for. Thanks to our museums and libraries, our citizens become well-rounded individuals, and our children are encouraged to become the best that they can be.

Let me highlight for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, a few of the success sto-

ries that come out from the Library Services and Technology Act, which is a part of the Museum and Library Services Act, in my home State of California.

The Infopeople project provides training and computers for local libraries, assuring public access to the Internet in 530 of our State's 765 public libraries.

The University of California in San Diego is assisting over 100 libraries and cultural institutions to recover from natural and man-made disasters.

The County of Los Angeles Public Library is training college students to assist with the library's Summer Reading Program for Children, providing work experience for students while helping open the door to reading for over 30,000 of our children.

The Family Literacy Program provides programs and books for infants and children.

The Oceanside Public Library in San Diego County provides health information from a mobile vehicle funded through this Act.

From my own congressional district, in the city of National City, one of the poorest cities in California, but blessed with a great city librarian, Anne Campbell, this city has funded a large community computer center in the National City Public Library. Over 50,000 residents each year have access to electronic information, software programs, Internet and training. Residents are working on job resumes, e-mailing a loved one aboard a Navy ship, running a business, preparing reports for school and 1,000 other uses that we know that the Internet can provide.

Currently, a grant from this Act provides Web page design training for high school students, with real life experiences designing Web sites for local businesses and nonprofit organizations. From the first class, already two students have been hired permanently to continue to update these Web sites. So the digital divide of which we hear a lot has been narrowed in National City because of the LSTA.

We can go on for a long time about the stories. These are just a few, but they would not be possible without our investment in our Nation's libraries.

I urge support of this legislation, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman and my friend from Michigan for granting me the time to rise and speak in strong support of H.R. 13, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, America has a moral obligation to support its museums and libraries, and throughout our Nation, libraries are at the forefront of our reading, education and family literacy programs. Museums are the centerpiece of our history and civilization, and together, our museums and libraries form the core of democracy in America.